THE PETITION OF THE LORDS AND COMMONS PRESENTED TO HIS MAJESTIE

By the Earle of *Stamford*, Master Chancellour of the Exchequer, and Master *Hungerford*, April 18. 1642.

Together with his MAIESTIES Answer thereunto.

Printed at Edinburgh, 1642.

To the Kings moſt excellent Majeſtie.

The humble Petition of the Lords and Commons aſſembled in Parliament.

May it pleaſe your Majeſtie,

YOur Majeſties moſt loyall and faithfull Subjects, the Lords and Commons in Parliament have duely conſidered the Meſſage received from Your Majeſtie concerning Your purpoſe of going into *Ireland* in Your own Perſon to proſecute the Warre there with the bodies of Your *Engliſh* Subjects, leavied, tranſported, and maintained at their charge: Which You are pleaſed to propound to Us, not as a matter wherein Your Majeſtie deſires the advice of Your Parliament, but as already firmly reſolved on, and forthwith to bee put in execution, by granting our Commiſſions for the leavying of two thouſand foot, & two hundred horſe for a Guard for Your Perſon when You ſhal come into that kingdom: wherein we cannot chuſe but with all reverence and humility to Your Majeſtie, obſerve that You have declined Your great Councell, the Parliament, & varied from the uſual courſe of your Royal Predeceſſours, that a buſineſſe of ſo great importance concerning the peace

and ſafety of all your ſubjects, and wherein they have a ſpecial intereſt by Your Majeſties promiſe and by thoſe great ſums which they have disburſed, and for which they ſtand ingaged, ſhall bee concluded and undertaken without their advice: Whereupon we hold it our duty to declare, That if at this time Your Majeſty ſhall go into *Ireland*, You wil very much endanger the ſafety of Your Royall Perſon and Kingdomes, and of all other States profeſſing the Proteſtant Religion in Chriſtendome, and make way to the execution of that cruel and bloudy Deſigne of the Papiſts every where to root out and deſtroy the reformed Religion, as the *Iriſh* Papiſts have in a great part already effected in that Kingdom, & in al likelihood would quickly be attempted in other places, if the conſideration of the ſtrength and union of the two Nations of *England* and *Scotland*, did not much hinder & diſcourage the execution of any ſuch Deſigne. And that we may manifeſt to Your Majeſtie, the danger and miſery which ſuch a journey and enterprize would produce, we preſent to Your Majeſtie the Reaſons of this our humble opinion and advice.

1. YOur Royall Perſon will be ſubject, not onely to the caſualty of VVar, but to ſecret practices and Conſpiracies, eſpecially Your Majeſtie continuing your Profeſſion to maintain the Proteſtant Religion in that Kingdom, which the Papiſts are generally bound by their vow to extirpate.

2. It will exceedingly encourage the Rebells who doe generally profeſſe and declare, that your Majeſtie doth favour and allow their proceedings, and that this inſurrection was undertaken by the VVarrant of Your Commiſſion, and it will make good their expectation of great advantage by your Majeſties preſence at this time of ſo much diſtraction in this Kingdom, wherby they may hope we ſhal be diſabled to ſupply the

the war there, especially there appearing lesse necessity of Your Majesties Journey at this time, by reason of the manifold successes which God hath given against them.

3. It will much hinder and impair the means, whereby this VVar is to be supported, and increase the charge of it, and in both these respects, make it more insupportable to Your Subject: and this we can confidently affirm, because many of the adventurers, who have already subscribed, do upon the knowledge of Your Majesties intention, declare their resolution, not to pay in their money; and others very willing to have subscribed, do now professe the contrary.

4. Your Majesties absence must necessarily very much interrupt the proceedings of Parliament, and deprive Your Subjects of the benefit of those further Acts of Grace and Justice, which we shall humbly expect from Your Majestie, for the establishing of a perfect union, and mutual confidence betwixt Your Majesty and Your People, and procuring and confirming the prosperity and happinesse of both.

5. It will exceedingly increase the Jealousies and Fears of Your People, and render their doubts more probable, of some force intended by some evil councels neer Your Majestie, in opposition of the Parliament, and favour of the malignant party of this Kingdome.

6. It will bereave Your parliament of that advantage, whereby they were induced to undertake this war, upon your Majesties promise that it should be managed by their advice; which cannot be done, if Your Majestie (contrary to their councells) shall undertake to order and govern it in Your own Person.

Upon which and divers other reasons wee have resolved, by the full and concurring agreement of both Houses, that we cannot with discharge of our duty con-

ſent to any Leavyes, or raiſing of Souldiers to bee made by your Majeſtie, for this your intended expedition into *Ireland*, or to the payment of any Army or Souldiers there, but ſuch as ſhall be imployed and governed according to our advice and direction: and that if ſuch Leavyes ſhall be made by any Commiſſion of your Majeſtie (not agreed to by both Houſes of Parliament) we ſhall bee forced to interpret the ſame to bee raiſed to the terrour of your people, and diſturbance of the publicke peace, and hold our ſelves bound, by the Lawes of the Kingdome, to apply the Authority of Parliament to ſuppreſſe the ſame.

And wee doe further moſt humbly declare, That if your Majeſtie ſhall by ill counſell be perſwaded to goe, contrary to this advice of your Parliament (which wee hope your Majeſty will not) we do not in that caſe hold our ſelves bound to ſubmit to any Commiſſioners which your Majeſtie ſhall chooſe, but do reſolve to preſerve & govern the Kingdome by the counſell and advice of Parliament for your Majeſty and your Poſteritie, according to our Allegiance, and the law of the Land.

Wherefore we do moſt humbly pray and adviſe your Majeſtie, to deſiſt from this your intended paſſage into *Ireland*, and from all preparation of men and Armes tending thereunto, and to leave the managing of that War to your Parliament, according to your Majeſties promiſe made unto us, and your Royall Commiſſion granted under your great Seale of *England*, by advice of both Houſes, in proſecution whereof (by Gods bleſſing) wee have already made a proſperous entrance by many defeats of the Rebels, whereby they are much weakned and diſheartned, and have no probable meanes of ſubſiſtance, if our proceedings ſhall not be interrupted by this

this interpoſition of Your Majeſties Journey, but that we may hope upon good grounds, that within a ſhort time, without Hazard of Your Majeſties perſon, and ſo much dangerous confuſion to Your Kingdomes, which muſt needs enſue, if you ſhould proceed in this reſolution, wee ſhall be enabled fully to vindicate Your Majeſties right and authority in that Kingdome, and puniſh thoſe horrible outragious cruelties, which have been committed in the murthering and ſpoyling ſo many of your Subjects, and bring that Realm to ſuch a condition as may be much for the advantage of Your Majeſtie, and this Crown, the honour of Your government, and contentment of Your people: For the better, and more ſpeedy effecting whereof, we do again renew our humble deſires of your return to your Parliament; and that you will pleaſe to reject all Counſels and apprehenſions, which may any way derogate from that faithfulneſſe and Allegiance, which in truth and ſinceritie we have alwayes born and profeſſed to Your Majeſtie, and ſhall ever make good to the uttermoſt with our lyves and fortunes.

His Majesties Answer

To a Petition presented to him at YORK, April 18. 1642. by the Earle of STAMFORD, &c. in the name of both Houses:

Concerning his Message lately sent to them, declaring His Resolution to go into *Ireland*.

WEare so troubled and astonished to finde the unexpected reception and misunderstanding of Our Message of the 8. of April, concerning our *Irish* Journey, that being so much disappointed of the approbation and thanks Wee looked for to that Declaration; We have great cause to doubt, whether it be in Our power to say or do any thing which shall not fall within the like interpretation. But as Wee have in that Message called God to witnesse the sincerity of the profession of Our onely Ends for the undertaking that Journey; So Wee must appeal to all Our good

Subjects,

Subjects, and the whole world, whether the Reasons alleadged against that Journey bee of weight to satisfie Our understanding, or the counsel presented to disswade Us from it, be full of that duety as is like to prevail over Our affections.

For Our resolving of so great a Busineſse without the Advice of Our Parliament, Wee must remember you how often by Our Messages Wee made the same offer, if you should advise us thereunto: To which you never gave Us the least answer, but in your late Declaration told Us, That yee were not to bee satisfied with words: so that Wee had reason to conceive, you rather avoided (out of regard to Our Person) to give Us counsell to run that hazard, then that you disapproved the inclination. And what greater comfort, or security can the Protestants of Christendome receive, then by seeing a Protestant King venture and engage His Person for the defence of that Profession, and the suppression of Popery, to which Wee solemnely protested in that Message, never to grant a Toleration upon what pretence soever, or an Abolition of any of the Lawes there in force against the Professours of it. And when Wee consider the great calamities, and unheard of cruelties Our poore protestant Subjects in that Kingdome have undergone for the space of neere, or full sixe Moneths, the growth and increase of the strength of those barbarous Rebells, and the evident probabilitie of Forreigne Supplies, (if they are not speedily suppressed) The very slow Succours hitherto sent them from hence; That the Officers of severall Regiments, who have long time beene allowed entertainment from you for that Service, have not raised any Supply or Succour for that Kingdome: That many

Troupes of horſe have long lyen neer *Cheſter* untranſported: That the Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*, on whom VVee relyed principally for the conduct and managing of Affaires there, is ſtill in this Kingdome, notwithſtanding our earneſtneſſe expreſſed that hee ſhould repaire to his Command: And when VVee conſider the many and great ſcandalls raiſed upon Our Selfe by report of the Rebells, and not ſufficiently diſcountenanced heere, notwithſtanding ſo many profeſſions of Ours: And had ſeene a Booke lately printed by the Houſe of Commons, entituled, *A Remonſtrance of divers remarkeable Paſſages concerning the Church and Kingdome of Ireland*, VVherein ſome Examinations are ſet down, which (how improbable or impoſſible ſoever) may make an impreſſion in the mindes of many of Our weake Subjects: And laſtly, when Wee duely weigh the diſhonour which will perpetually lie upon this Kingdom, if full and ſpeedy reliefe bee not diſpatched thither, Wee could, nor cannot thinke of a better way to diſcharge Our duety to Almightie GOD, for the defence of the true proteſtant profeſſion, or to manifeſt Our affection to Our three Kingdomes for their preſervation, then by engaging Our perſon in this Expedition, as many of Our Royall progenitors have done, even in Forreigne parts, upon cauſes of leſſe Importance and piety, with great Honour to themſelves, and advantage to this Kingdome: And therefore wee expected at leaſt, thanks for ſuch Our Inclination.

For the danger to Our perſon, wee conceive it neceſſary and worthy of a King to adventure His life to preſerve His Kingdome, neither can it bee imagined, that wee will ſit ſtill, and ſuffer Our Kingdomes to be loſt, and

Our

Our good proteſtant Subjects to be Maſſacred, without expoſing Our own perſon to the utmoſt hazard for their relief and preſervation: Our life, when it was moſt pleaſant, being nothing ſo precious to Us, as it is, and ſhal be to govern and preſerve Our people with Honour and Juſtice.

For any encouragement to the Rebells, becauſe of the reports they raiſed, we cannot conceive that the Rebels are capable of a greater Terrour, then by the preſence of their Lawfull King in the head of an Army to chaſtiſe them: Beſides, it will bee an unſpeakable advantage to them, if any reports of theirs could hinder Us from doing any thing which were fit for Us to do, if ſuch reports were not raiſed: This would quickly teach them, in this jealous Age, to prevent by ſuch reports any other perſons coming againſt them, whom they had no minde ſhould be ſo imployed.

Wee marvell that the Adventurers, whoſe advantage was a principall Motive (next the reaſon before mentioned) to Us, ſhould ſo much miſtake Our purpoſe, whoſe Intereſt we conceive muſt be much improved by the Expedition wee hope (by Gods bleſſing) to uſe in this Service: this being the moſt probable way for the ſpeedy Conqueſt of the Rebells: Their Lands are ſufficiently ſecured by act of Parliament.

We think not Our ſelf kindly uſed, That the addition of ſo few men to your Leavies (for a Guard to our perſon in *Ireland*) ſhould be thought fit for your refuſall: and much more, that having uſed ſo many Cautions in that Meſſage, both in the ſmallneſſe of the number: In our having raiſed none untill your anſwer: In their being to bee raiſed onely neare their place of Shipping: In their being there to be armed, and

that, not till they were ready to be shipped: In the provision, by the Oaths, that none of them should be Papists (all which appears sufficient to destroy all grounds of jealousie of any force intended by them in opposition to the Parliament, or favour to any malignant partie) any suspicion should notwithstanding bee grounded upon it.

Neither can it be understood, That when We recommended the Managing of that War to you, That Wee intended to exclude Our selfe, or not to bee concerned in your Councels, that if We found any expedient (which in Our conscience or understanding We thought necessary for that great work) We might not put it in practice. We look upon you as Our great Councell, whose advice We alwayes have and will (with great regard and deliberation) weigh and consider: But we look upon Our self, as neither deprived of Our understanding, or devested of any right We had, if there were no Parliament sitting. We cal'd you together by Our own Writ and Authority (without which you could not have met) to give Us faithfull Councell about Our great Affairs: But We resigned not up Our own Interest and Freedom. We never subjected Our selfe to your absolute determination. We have alwayes weighed Your Councels, as proceeding from a Body entrusted by Us: And when We have dissented from you, we have returned you the Reasons, which have prevailed with Our conscience and understanding with that Candor, as a Prince should use towards His Subjects: and that Affection, which a Father can expresse to his children. What application hath been used to rectifie Our understanding by Reasons, or what Motives have been given to perswade Our Affections We leave all the world to judge: And then We must tell you

you, howsoever a Major part may binde you in matter of Opinion: We hold Our selfe (and we are sure the Law, and the Constitution of the Kingdome hath always held the same) as free to dissent (till Our Reason be convinced for the generall Good) as if you delivered no Opinion.

For Our Journey it self, The circumstances of your Petition are such, as We know not well what answer to return, or whether we were best to give any. That part which pretends to carry reason with it, doth no way satisfie Us, the other, which is rather Reprehension and Menace, then advice, cannot stagger Us, Our Answer therefore is, That VVee shall bee very glad to finde the work of *Ireland* so easie as you seem to think it, VVhich did not so appear by any thing known to us, when VVe sent Our Message. And though we will never refuse, or be unwilling to venture Our Person, for the good and safety of Our People; We are not so weary of Our life, as to hazard it impertinently. And therefore since You seeme to have received Advertisements of some late and great Successes in that Kingdom, We will stay some time to see the event of those, and not pursue this Resolution, till VVe have given you a second Notice. But if we finde the miserable Condition of Our poor Subjects of that Kingdom be not speedily relieved, VVe wil (with Gods assistance) visit them with succours, as Our particular Credit and Interest can supply Us with, if you refuse to joyne with Us. And we doubt not but the Leavies we shall make, in which We will observe punctually the former, and all other Cautions, as may best prevent all Fears and Jealousies, and to use no Power but what is Legall) will be so much to the satisfaction of Our Subjects, as no person will dare presume to resist Our

Commands:

Commands; and if they ſhould, at their perill. In the mean time We hope Our forwardneſſe ſo remarkable to that Service, ſhall be notorious to all the world, and that all ſcandals laid on Us in that Buſineſſe ſhall bee clearly wiped away.

We were ſo carefull that Our Journey into *Ireland* ſhould not interrupt the proceedings of Parliament, nor deprive Our Subjects of any Acts of Juſtice, or further Acts of Grace. for the reall benefite of Our People, That We made a Free offer of leaving ſuch Power behinde, as ſhould not onely bee neceſſary for the Peace and Safety of the Kingdom; but fully provide for the happy Progreſſe of the Parliament. And therefore We cannot but wonder, ſince ſuch Power hath beene alwayes left here by Commiſſion for the Government of this Kingdom, when Our progenitors have been out of the ſame, during the ſitting of Parliaments: And ſince your ſelves deſired that ſuch a power might be left here by Us at Our laſt going into *Scotland*, what Law of the Land have you now found to Diſpenſe with you, from ſubmitting to ſuch Authority, Legally derived from Us, in Our abſence, and to enable you to Govern this Kingdome by your own meer Authority?

For Our own retnrn towards *London*, We have given you ſo full an Anſwer in Our late Declaration, and in Anſwer to your Petition preſented to Us at *York* the 26 of *March* laſt, that We know not what to add, if you will not provide for Our Security with you, nor agree to remove to no other place, where there may not be the ſame Danger to Us. We expected that (ſince We have been ſo particular in the Cauſes and Grounds of Our Fears) you ſhould have ſent Us word, that you had publiſhed ſuch Declarations againſt future Tumults, and unlaw-

unlawfull Aſſemblies, and taken ſuch Courſes for the ſuppreſſing of the ſeditious Sermons and Pamphlets, that Our Fears of that kinde might be laid aſide, before you ſhould preſſe our Return.

To conclude, we could wiſh that you would (with the ſame ſtrictneſſe and ſeverity) weigh and examine your Meſſages and Expreſſions to Us, as you doe theſe yee receive from Us: For we are very confident, that if you examine our Rights and Priviledges, by what our Predeceſſours have enjoyed: and your own addreſſes, by the uſuall Courſes of your Anceſtors: ye will finde many expreſſions in this Petition warranted onely by your own authority, which indeed we forbear to take notice of, or to give anſwer to, leſt we ſhould be tempted (in a juſt indignation) to expreſſe a greater Paſſion, then we are yet willing to put on. God in his good time (we hope) will ſo inform the hearts of all our Subjects, that we ſhall recover from the miſchief and danger of this Diſtemper; on whoſe good pleaſure we will wait with all patience and humilitie.

FINIS.